

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, N.C.

NEWS

FOIAb3b

M. 91,735

S. 104,020

NOV 13 1963

FOIAb3b

What's The Truth About The CIA? Singapore Spying Backfire Ignited Blast Of Questions

The following reports are condensations from a series of articles on the Central Intelligence Agency by a team of New York Times correspondents consisting of Tom Wicker, John W. Finney, Max Frankel, E. W. Kenworthy and other members of the Times staff.

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — One day in 1960 an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency caught a plane in Tokyo, flew to Singapore and checked into a hotel room in time to receive a visitor. The agent plugged a lie detector into an overloaded electrical circuit and blew out the lights in the building.

In the investigation that followed, the agent and a CIA colleague were arrested and jailed as American spies.

The result was an international incident that infuriated London, not once but twice. It embarrassed an American ambassador. It led an American secretary of state to write a rare letter of apology to a foreign chief of state.



Allen Dulles
Made Decision

FIVE YEARS LATER that foreign leader was handed an opportunity to denounce the perfidy of all Americans and of the CIA in particular, thus increasing the apprehension of his Oriental neighbors about the agency and enhancing his own political position.

Ultimately, the incident led the U. S. government to tell a lie in public and then to admit the lie even more publicly.

The lie was no sooner disclosed than a world predisposed to suspicion of the CIA and unaware of what really had happened in Singapore five years earlier began to repeat questions that have dogged the intelligence agency and the U.S. government for years:

Was this secret body, which was known to have overthrown governments and installed others, raised armies, staged an invasion of Cuba, spied and counterspied, established airlines, radio stations and schools and supported books, magazines and businesses, run-

Continued